El Excentrico

Vol. 26, No. 24 March 20, 1976



PRIMAVERA

FIRST DAY OF SPRING
MARCH 20, 1976

PRIMAVERA
Y POEMAS

LA PRIMAVERA

El pajaro ha venido
a dar la luz:
de cada trino suyo
nace el agua.
Y entre agua y luz que el aire desarrollan
ya esta la primavera inaugurada,
y sabe la semilla que ha crecido,
la raiz se retrata en la corola,
se abren por fin los parpados del pelen.
Todo lo hizo un pajaro sencillo
desde una rama verde.

JUVENTUD

Un perfume como una acida espada
de ciruelas en un camino,
los besos del azucar en los dientes,
las gotas vitales resbalando en los dedos,
la dulce pulpa erotica,
las eras, los pajares, los incitantes
sitios secretos de las casas anchas,
los colchones dormidos en el pasado,
el agrio valle verde
mirado desde arriba, desde el
vidrio escondido:
toda la adolescencia mojandose
y ardiendo
como una lampara derribada en la lluvia.

SPRING

The bird has arrived
to give light.
From every trill of his,
water is born.
And between water and light
which unwind the air,
now is the spring inaugurated,
now the seed is aware that it has grown;
the root is posing in the corolla,
at last the eyelids of the pollen lift.
All this accomplished by a simple bird
from his perch on a green bough.

YOUTH

An odor like an acid sword made
of plum branches along the road,
the kisses like sugar in the teeth,
the drops of life slipping on the fingertips,
the sweet sexual fruit,
the yards, the haystacks, the inviting
rooms hidden in the deep houses,
the mattresses sleeping in the past,
the savage green valley
seen from above, from the hidden
window:
adolescence all sputtering and burning
like a lamp turned over in the rain.

PABLO NERUDA

HOJAS SECAS

El jardin esta lleno de hojas secas;
nunca vi tantas hojas en sus arboles
verdes, en primavera.

DRY LEAVES

The garden is full of dry leaves.
I never saw that many leaves
on the trees, when they were green,
in the spring.

JOSE JUAN TABLADA

2

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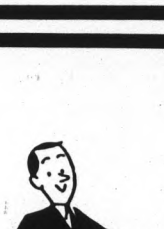


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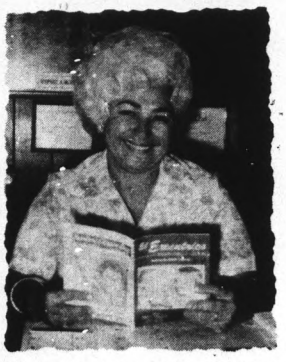
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Editor/Marc Garcia
Manager/Bert Garcia
Production/Manuel Fernandez
Joseph Ivey
Photographer/Richard Diaz
Public Relations/Rudy Belloumini
Sale Representatives/
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Articles appearing herein are the opinion of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of El Excéntrico nor its sponsors.

Vol. 26, No. 24/March 20, 1976

El Excéntrico is published bi-weekly on the 5th and 20th of each month. Its circulation reaches 25,000 Mexican-Americans in Santa Clara County at each printing. Advertising rates available on request. Closing dates are the 1st and 14th of each month. Subscription rates are $5.00 per year.
El Excéntrico Business Office is located at 274 Terraine Street, San Jose, California 95110; Phone (408) 292-4273.
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Letter to the Editor

Editor:

Having served in the Vietnam conflict and having the same belief in earning my "American rights" as my father before me in World War II and his brothers' in Korea, I am no longer surprised that we remain second class citizens despite our loyalty and sacrifices to the United States. Many of our Chicano brothers and sisters fought and died for this country and we are still dying on American streets beneath the guns and clubs of "law and order."

I fear we have ourselves to blame. We as a people have always been governed by the fundamental beliefs of fair play, truth and the will of God. We as a people have always turned the other cheek, only to be hit again and again. We have misled ourselves into believing that if we maintain a quiet posture in the community we will eventually get the same equal treatment so long overdue.

Potentially we have a powerful political base in thsi county, if we could agree to take advantage of it. The stereotype of the lazy Mexican under the cactus must be forced out of the minds of the local, state and national government. We have peacefully voiced our requests and they have fallen on deaf ears. We must now raise our hands in protest and act.

Regretfully Danny Trevino is another victim of the law and order which has become so common in the Black and Chicano community. We must ask ourselves, do we dare let it happen again? We must act for we cannot continue to be second class citizens and expect the equality given to all of us by God. We must act . . . for the time is now.

Ernest P. Duarte

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Danny Trevino March Planned

by GERALD CURTIS

"We are planning the biggest march for justice San Jose has ever seen," says Ray Gonzales, march organizer for the Committee on Public Safety. The group is attempting to get an open grand jury on the shooting of Daniel Trevino.

Gonzales predicts 10,000 people will march on the 27th of March at 12:00 noon. The march will begin at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, located at 2020 E. San Antonio to King Rd., down Santa Clara St., and then on to St. James Park.

Gonzales has contacted several speakers, including Tom Hayden, candidate for the U.S. Senate and former Chicago Seven defendant who was acquitted. Hayden's wife, Jane Fonda will also appear. Dennis Banks, American Indian Movement (AIM) activist, has been contacted, along with other guests including Angela Davis, and La Raza Party founder from Crystal City, Texas.

The action is prompted by the news that the Grand Jury will meet March 31 to hear the District Attorney present it's side of the Trevino controversy.

■

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JOAQUIN BRITO, Director.

by JEFF MAPES

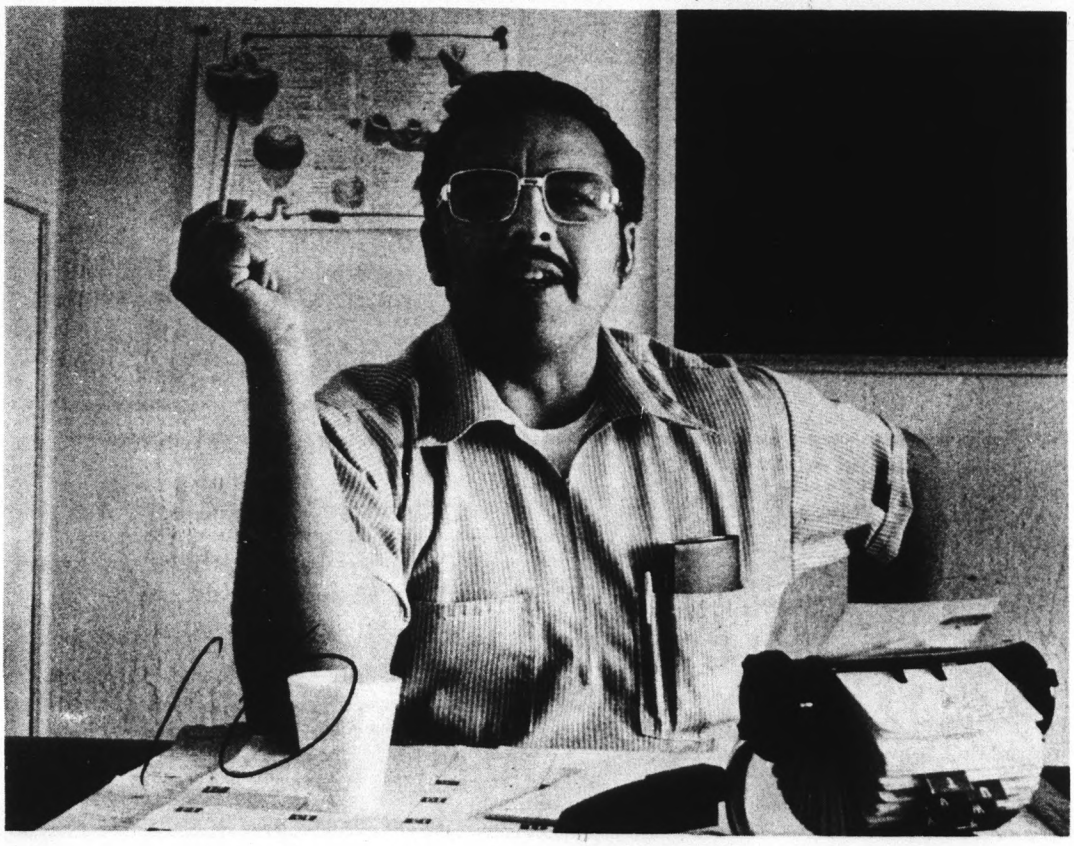
Chicano politicians do not have much power in this county. That is the view that one prominent Chicano community leader, Joaquin Brito, has formed from his several years of involvement in the local political structure. He says to ask any Chicano public official, and Brito has several in mind, if they have any power. They will, Brito argues, tell you one thing—"No. I'm just sitting here making my money."

For in the Brito creed title does not mean power. Instead he has sought to get things done by using a brand of confrontation that makes him a unique kind of community organizer.

Sitting in his office in an old renovated Victorian on North Second street that houses MACSA — The Mexican-American Community Services Agency of which the 47-year-old Brito is the executive director — he discussed the approach that he takes. An approach he believes gives him some real clout in the community.

"I'm gonna take them on on the professional level . . . or on the articulate level, or in Spanish and use my own culture which is a lot more dear to me, or I can kick their ass."

Appeasement is not the way for Brito. "As long as I have anything to do with this agency we're never going to go hat in hand to nobody. We're never going to go on those marches you do on your knees with a lit candle and you say 'look, if you don't do it for me, do it for God."





Brito believes his strength has come from knowing the facts, using the law and from being outspoken, something he has followed since he was a Teamster, through service as Chairman of the Model Cities board, an advisorship at San Jose Unified School District, MACSA, a state highway commissioner, and as a spokesman and negotiator sionership, and as a spokesman and negotiator for the community.

"I refuse to mince words with people. If I think he is a rotten bastard, I am going to call him a rotten bastard."

And through the years he has had his run-ins.

Brito started out in the San Jose Teamsters Local 287 in 1950 when he was 21. Brito was in a low paying job, as a warehouseman, as all the Chicanos were. He was involved in Teamster projects, trying to "rank and file" the leadership as he put it, enough to learn how the union was run. "Most of those guys (the Teamsters officials) after they fall into it for a while, the committment they felt so vehemently seems to erode," he says.

It is a lesson that Brito has since applied to other organizations and bureaucracys, even ones in the Chicano community.

Always active in one community project or another, Brito eventually found a way out of the warehouse ("I left a lot of my vitality there") and some interim jobs when the superintendent of the San Jose Unified schools asked him to work for the district in 1971. He plunged into the ghetto schools of the district, getting involved in whatever seemed important to him. "The more I looked into it, the worse it was," he said. At Gardner Elementary school, which was 94 per cent Chicano, he found the federal funds to give the 6th grade children physicals. He found that more than two-thirds of the children had something wrong pysically that would prevent them from functioning properly in the classroom. He said he was "looking at dyslexia, myopia, anemia, malnutrition." It was simple stuff that should not have been a problem, he says.

He stayed with the school district for three years. During that time he was also the main negotiator between the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department and the Chicano Employment Committee in a fight over the lack of Chicano sheriffs. The result of the wrangle was that the department

hired 60 Chicano sheriffs "who are bilingual, bicultural and are going to do every citizen in this county an awful lot of good," Brito says.

How does someone as outspoken as Jack Brito become a negotiator, especially with the local politicians that he is so quick to blast? "I think they've known me long enough not to be able to figure me out. I don't know if they respect me by saying 'that son of a bitch speaks like he knows what he is talking about or he is going to crawl across the table and stuff my head up my ass.' "

And of course this forthrightness extends to his own community. A Chicano that has standing in the city or county will not automatically win support from Brito. He even calls many of them "turkeys." The problem, as he sees it, is that a Chicano that asserts himself will find himself shut out by the city manager or county executive. "They'll get another Chicano and pay him the $30,000 a year it takes" to find one to go along with the rest of the gang.

A lot of these Chicanos who play along are "well-meaning" Brito summed up, "but they lack direction."

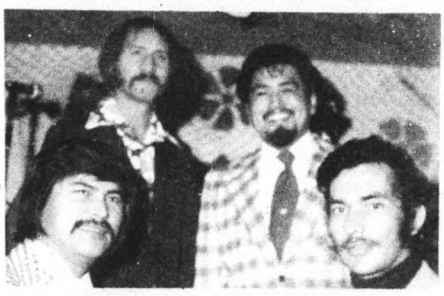
Getting tangled up in the governmental structure can be something of a trap, and Brito clearly relishes his independence from it (MACSA is an independent agency funded by United Way). For one, it makes him free to blast the "phony, fishy bastards" on the city council. Or he can, as an admitted male chauvinist, characterize one force in San Jose politics as the "women's liberation get-out-of-the-kitchen and into politics" movement that is "going to sink us so fast."

One person that Brito does praise is Governor Brown, who appointed Brito to the state highway commission last year. They have known each other since Brown was studying to be a priest in Los Gatos, more than 15 years ago. "He was always on the right side of an issue. Something that he can't do now, which bugs me." If Brown can't be on the right side of every issue, Brito singles out his stands on health care, child care and penal reform.

"He's an unorthodox governor," Brito says. "He's either going to be one of the greatest governors we've had or one of the worst. To date he's doing real good. And whether he does it in a monks outfit while the moon is high or whether he does it by

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a raw kind of politics . . . is immaterial. There has to be someone to stand up to the Reagans and the Nixons."

But regardless of what kind of governor Brown does become Brito will be pursuing his own kind of answers. His major interest at the moment ("call it a fad if you like") is penal reform. For every 100 people convicted of a felony, 12 go to state institutions, he said. And "too many of that 12 are black and brown. Warehouse a piece of meat in an institution and what you are releasing is a hell of a lot worse than what you took in."

To this end Brito and MACSA have just opened a transition house for convicts just released from prison. They get room and board for 90 days, which Brito said will give them a good chance to get back on their feet.

One other project that provides Brito with a good pipeline to the Governor is his seat on the state Highway Commission. The commission is appointed by the governor, and it has the authority for allocating all state monies to the highways. Brito, naturally, brought a different point of view to the commission, which is normally made up of real estate developers or contractors. "I was always against freeways and cutting freeways through Chicano communities and other poor communities and ripping people off through eminent domain and condemnation.

So now he says he is working to "destroy" the present commission and switch the emphasis, and the money, into public transportatitn. Even if highway building creates a lot of jobs, Brito argues that "the unemployed can do much better than trying to perpetuate a rip off situation that is going to put tons and tons of concrete over mother earth just because they need a job."

The solutions are not easy, and Jack Brito is the first to tell you so. He says he enjoys conflict and he obviously enjoys being his own man. And he has a refreshing sense of what to respect in society. "The only titles I really have respect for are father, mother, and brother and sister and son, daughter, wife, friend," he says.

■

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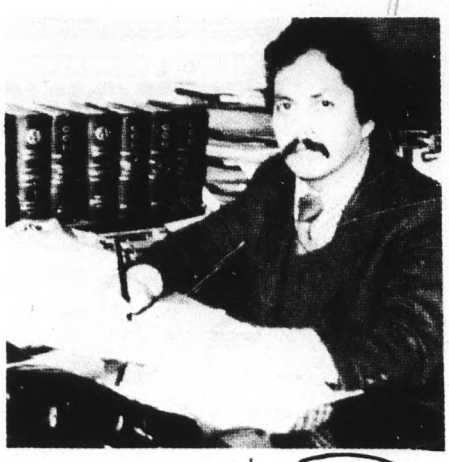
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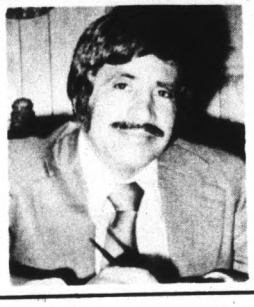


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OPINION

By LUIS JUAREZ



Bilingual Notices Miss The Chicano Translation

I frequently come across bilingual notices, pamphlets and circulars designed to reach both the English and Spanish-speaking population.

I find the "Spanish" used in most of these pieces of literature to be so bad that only by reading the English version do I know what the message is.

I cannot comprehend how something like this can happen when we have so many persons in the area who speak and write excellent Spanish and can do a good translation.

The object of information written in Spanish is to help the thousands of persons we have in this valley who can read only Spanish. Poorly written Spanish defeats the whole purpose.

We need to understand in many cases the "Spanish" used in California by our Chicano population is a mixture of English, Spanish, slang and colloquialism that is not always understood by persons who speak Spanish only.

There is nothing wrong with using Chicano language in a verbal or written form if we are dealing with other Chicanos who understand it. As a matter of fact, I think it is fun to use it—it's part of the new Chicano culture.

But if it is our monolinngual population we want to reach, we must use the language they can understand.

The use of poor Spanish I find in the literature distributed locally is not necessarily the one used by Chicanos, but it's someone's idea of how some English words and phrases should be translated into Spanish.

These "translators" can be individuals who had some high school or college Spanish or Chicanos who think they can speak Spanish and are too embarrassed to admit they can't.

The result is millions of pieces of literature floating around, doing little good, that are often insulting to the Spanish speaking.

Knowledge of Spanish is becoming more popular every day among Chicanos and others. North Americans (USA) are seeing the importance of knowing a second language and in the Southwestern United States it is Spanish.

First and second generation Mexican-Americans who had the misfortune of not learning Spanish as children are now desperately trying to learn it.

It is not the fault of many of our Chicanos that they did not learn Spanish. As children, they were prohibited by school authorities to use Spanish in the schools. Their parents —especially the children of first generation Mexican-Americans — discouraged them from learning Spanish because they "did not need it here" or it would be a social deterrent.

■

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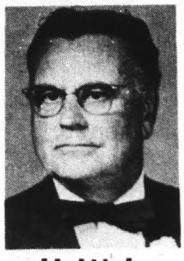
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TERESA FAZ



GISELE BARRERAS



Gloria Ann Reynaga

We wish to apologize to the Miss San Jose GI Forum Queen Contestants for running the wrong captions under their photographs in the March 5th issue of EL EXCENTRICO. The correct names are shown under the girls' photos above *Perdon, por favor!*

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Member, National Steering Committee of the Urban Coalition

Field representative for Congressman Corman

Member, Mexican American Commission to Los Angeles Board of Education

RESCUE MISSION helps reclaim lives

by SALLY WOLFE

"It was cold outside, and I figured I needed a new start in life," said Joe Soriano, a stocky young man with shoulders made strong by years of manual labor.

"I've just been sleepin'," he said. "I hadn't slept for three days."

Soriano came for his new start to the San Jose Rescue Mission, a non-denominational recovery house at 44 W. Julian St. peopled with missionaries and refugees from the pages of a Steinbeck novel.

"Our business is trying to reclaim human lives from skid row," said the Rev. Jet Turner, who considers the mission a full-time ministry. "We want to give that guy some confidence in himself to where he can go out in society."

"Social Dropouts"

In operation since 1957, the mission is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day to anyone who needs it. Most of the men who come are self-avowed "social dropouts."

Their average age is 33, said the Rev. Turner, and many of the men were "either in business for themselves or high officials in other people's businesses."

But something somewhere has gone wrong in the lives of the men who end up on the Rev. Turner's doorstep.

"It's usually alcohol or drugs," he said. "Most of their problems are small ones, made into mountains because of years of not being able to talk to anyone."

Men who come to the mission for shelter are allowed to stay for three days out of every 30, though they are welcome to stay longer if they are willing to help others who come in.

"We figure after three days they are dried out enough so that we can talk to them," said the Rev. Turner.

No Drinking Allowed

The mission demands only three things of the men who stay there.

"We don't allow any drinking," said the Rev. Turner. "When they leave they have to tell us where they're going, so we can watch them to make sure they don't bring a bottle back with them."

The men must attend the mission's church services and Bible studies, and must perform some "menial task" each morning, such as setting the table or doing dishes.

In return, the mission gives them beds, meals, haircuts, medical care and even clothes.

The Rev. Turner said each man is given one pair of pants at a time, because if some of them had two "they would go out and sell one to buy wine."

Supported entirely by contributions, the mission made available more than 19,000 beds last year and served nearly 113,000 meals.

Staff Helped

The mission's staff fluctuates between 25 and 50 people, about 60 per cent of whom first came for help themselves.

"We let them stay as long as they want," said the Rev. Turner.

Stan Ortiz, a former commercial artist, has been at the mission for eight years. "I had started to get on the wrong side of life," he said. "I thought I'd find some change in church work."

Ortiz preaches at the mission, and plans to stay "until something comes up."

"I don't know what the Lord has for me," he said, "but he has a place for me."

Ralph McKay, "going on 66," retired last year from his bookbinding job and has been in the mission since November. He drives the mission's bus and sometimes "picks up the doughnuts."

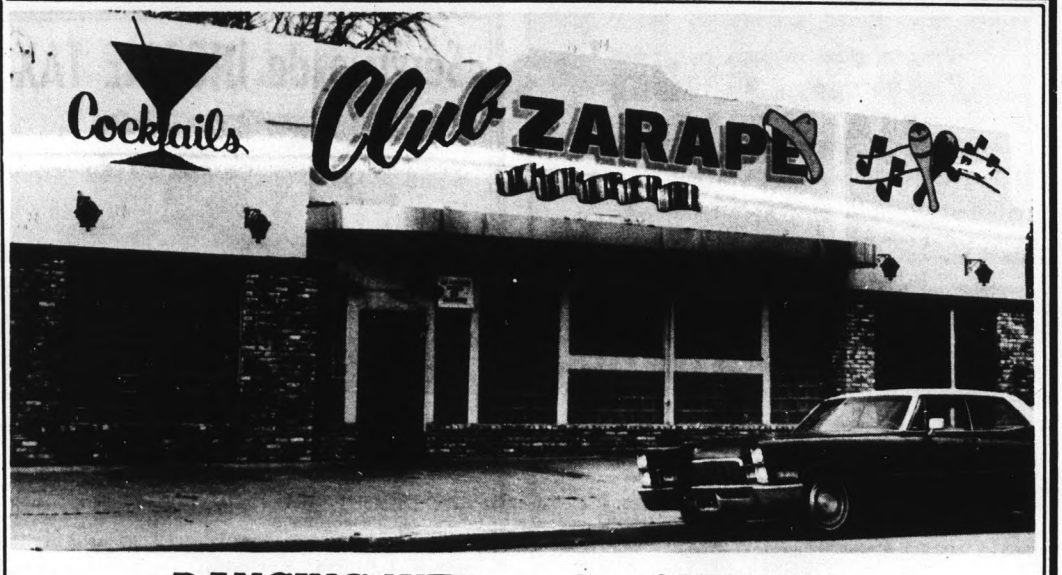
"I was getting to a point where I had nothing to do," he said. "I knew the rocking chair wasn't going to do me any good."

Newer arrival at the mission are not quite as secure in their duty as McKay and Ortiz.

"Johnny B. Good," a tall lanky man with a wide crooked smile, has been at the mis-







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sion "a couple of months." He wanders through the rooms, watching other people.

"This," he said, is the greatest little mission in the universe."

Through the Cycle . . .

Soriano, the stocky young man with piercing brown eyes, has been at the mission only a few days. "This is my third time through the cycle," he said. "I'm not gonna go the route this time."

Soriano, 30, grew up in Fireball, a small town in Fresno county. After dropping out of school, at 17, he found himself asking, "Is this all there is to life?"

He left Fireball, and his life became a succession of jobs, drugs and wine bottles.

Once, Soriano said, he found himself in a welfare office with 32 cents in his pocket. He met a friend there who "needed a drink," so Soriano gave away his last penny.

He finally ended up in San Jose, broke and friendless, and spent two nights in an abandoned house on Third Street before finding his way to the mission.

The other destitute men using the house fought with him, Soriano said, over the pieces of carpet they all used as blankets.

"All of it leads to one thing," he said. "That's here. A lot of roads, and they all lead to one place."

Soriano vows this will be the last time he needs to dry out. He wants to get a job, and said he might even decide to get married.

But the mission will not find Soriano a job, and because of previous tie-ups with Social Security he is not eligible for welfare.

He has tried going through the county rehabilitation program, Soriano said, but "they're funky."

Soriano will be able to stay at the mission as long as he wants to, according to the mission's welfare director Albert Bailey.

"The only way we will ask someone to leave is if they refuse to comply with the rules," Bailey said. "If he (Soriano) gets a job, he can stay until his first pay day."

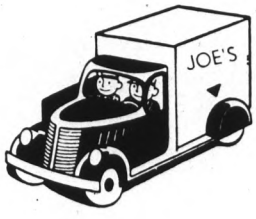
"I'm gonna do my bit here," Soriano said, smiling. "I've gotta move myself or be moved. I can't find any other way."

■

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Story on Confedercion
De La Raza Unida

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Instructor Jess Delgado Bids for County Bd of Supervisors Post

by DEAN CHALIOS

Believing in change for the central core of San Jose, San Jose State University instructor Jess Delgado is hoping to represent the Second Supervisorial District in a bid for a seat on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Delgado has been an instructor in the Mexican-American Graduate Studies Department (MAGS) for the past five years and is currently teaching MAGS 101, Introduction to Chicano Studies.

He is a graduate of SJSU and he recently resigned as an administrative assistant to Rep. Don Edwards, D-San Jose, in order to devote more time to running for supervisor.

The 30-year-old Democrat said he decided to get involved in politics when he was 18 and has since been involved in 38 different campaigns. He is a national committeeman for the Democratic Party and has also served as state secretary for the California Democratic Committee.

Represents Area

"I've been working in this community for a long time and I want to try to represent the area," Delgado said.

Delgado said there are a lot of negative factors in this area, including the lowest literacy rate, the worst housing, the least amount of parks and the worst streets in the county.

"You name anything negative and we have it in this district," he said. "Basically, I'm running because I want to change it."

Uses Own Money

Delgado is using $10,000 of his own money for the campaign and said he has been preparing for this race for a long time.

The MAGS instructor said the incumbent, Dominic Cortese, "is not a full time supervisor and he gets paid for it. He's not putting the time that is required into the job of being a county supervisor."

Delgado pointed out that transportation is one of the biggest issues in the campaign. He said he believes a combination of a light rail system, major arterial bus routes and mini-bus feeder lines are the solution to the problem.

Support Needed

He said he is depending on the student and poor communities for support in his campaign.

Besides transportation, his platform consists of fair taxes, equal opportunity in employment, health services, housing and safety including public protection and the environment.

Treated Unequally

Delgado has urged people to "come out with me and take a look around and I'll show you that we are not being treated equally with the rest of the county."

Delgadc also said he wants people to look at "my record of involvement and compare it with the incumbant's (Cortese's) record of non-involvement. He (Cortese) has misused the trust of the people," Delgado said.

■

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DESCANCE EN PAZ

Lydia Mendoza and brothers and sisters wish to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the many who expressed their condolences and love and contributed to the family in their time of need.

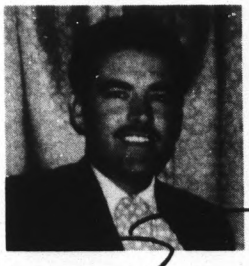
Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 9, at 10 a.m. from Oak Hill Mortuary Chapel of The Oaks. Officiating, Dev. David Longoria and Rev. Cristobal M. Dona. Interment Oak Hill Memorial Park.

Lydia Mendoza, hemanos y hermanas, desean expresar su sincera gratitud y aprecio a todas las personas que presenaron sus condolencias y cariño, acompañando a la familia en nuestra pena.

Los servicios funebres se efectuaron el día 9 de marzo a las 10 A.M. en Oak Hill Mortuary Chapel of the Oaks. Oficiaron los Reverendos Padres David Longoria y Cristobal M. Dona.
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AT THE MOVIES

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TAXI DRIVER

Drama: a Columbia Picture release of a Martin Scorsese Production. Produced, written and directed by Martin Scorsese. Music by Bernard Herrman. Stars Robert De Niro, Albert Brooks, Cybill Shepherd, Harvey Keitel, Peter Boyle and Jodie Foster. Running time: 117 minutes; MPAA rating R.

Without a doubt TAXI DRIVER is one of the most hard-hitting, painfully realistic films to come out of Hollywood this year. It is not recommended for the squeamish. And I really cannot emphasize this enough. Because of the R rating (which is very lenient, to say the least), you can usually expect a certain degree of rawness to appear, but in this case there is probably much more than the average moviegoer expects.

The story concerns that of our lead character, Travis Bickel (De Niro) and his beginning into the career of a taxi driver in New York City. From the opening shots of Travis, you can see that thera are a great many things that bother him. His biggest problem seems to be basically from communication, from one person to another. (This is very well exemplified in the relation between Travis and the "girl of his dreams," Betsy (Miss Shepherd). After a very classis way of introducing himself to Betsy, he blows their first date by taking her to a porno flick. When she walks out on him in the theatre, he lets her go and says to himself; "She's just like all the others." From that one basic problem, we have the basis for our story. This one lonely outcast wants to reach out, but he doesn't know how. From the constant oppression of daily existence building from day to day, you know that something is just about to explode. And it does, but not in the traditional sense of movie making. Martin Scorsese (veteran of "Mean Streets" and "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore") takes things in this situation and carries them a step further. And



the results? That, I'm afraid you'll have to make up your own mind about. TAXI DRIVER is not for everyone. It is not the kind of a film that you buy popcorn and coke for. IT IS a thought-provoking piece of work about the scum that roams the streets at night and how, no what you want to think, they still thrive and exist, like vampires that roam the night in search of new blood.

The performances by all in the cast are outstanding. Not one of the characters outshadows another. They all balance each other out. This is largely due to the superb direction of Mr. Scorsese. Bernard Hermann's last score, (he died right after completing the picture) presents the same kind of ominous mood that something is always just about to happen. It works very well with the film. For a very nevre wracking - revealing evening, I suggest you see TAXI DRIVER. You may never think the same way about an old cabbie again. Now playing at the Fox Town & Country Theater in San Jose.

HEARTBREAK PASS

West — Who-done-it? A United Artists release. Directed by Tom Gries. Camera by Lucian Ballard. Written by Allister Maclean. Music by Jerry Goldsmith. Stars Charles Bronson, Jill Ireland, Richard Crenna, Charles Durning and Ben Johnson.

For all you Bronson fans . . . SAVE YOUR MONEY! Not to mention your time. Without a doubt, the worst movie Charlie's done since CHATO'S LAND ('72). Besides being terribly confusing, script wise, it never "gets down." And that's something we all expect from a Charles Bronson movie. Instead, we are forced to sit and watch a totally boring film about a shipment of medicine to a dist-

ant fort that has been struck with "the plague." We never really find out why they, that particular group, is being sent or what exactly is the "plague." As far as action, the movie is almost totally void of it. The only really good action sequence is the one in which Mr. Bronson has a super knock-down fight with Archie Moore on the top of one of the train cars. With that only exception, this movie will surely put you to sleep. Besides wasting Mr. Bronson's talent, it wastes everyone's else. (In particular, Richard Crenna, Ben Johnson and Bob Tossier). Luckily, the co-feature, "My Name Is Nobody," more than made up for the disaster.

Currently Playing and Recommended

"The Man Who Would Be King"—Century 24, San Jose.

"Dog Day Afternoon"—Centur y 22, San Jose.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"—Century 22, San Jose.

"Blackbeard's Ghost"—Oakridge 6, San Jose.

"Hustle"—Meridian Quad 6, Santa Clara.

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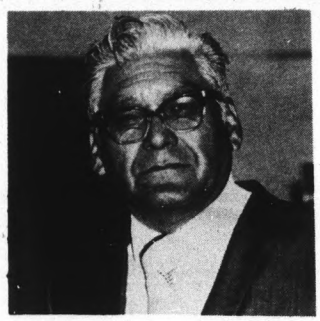
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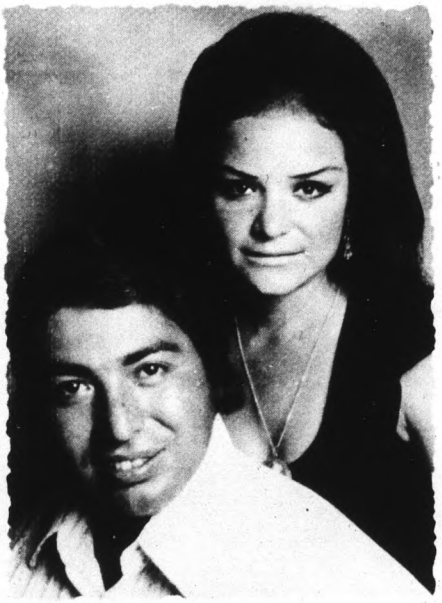
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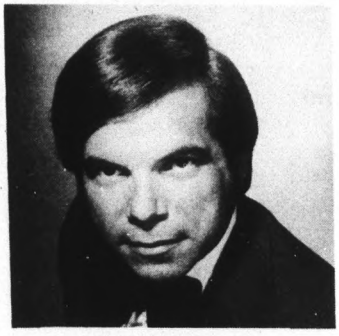
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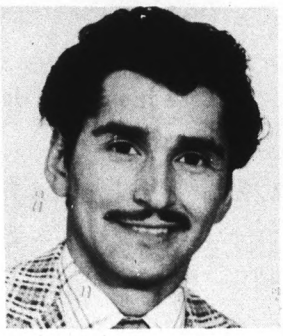
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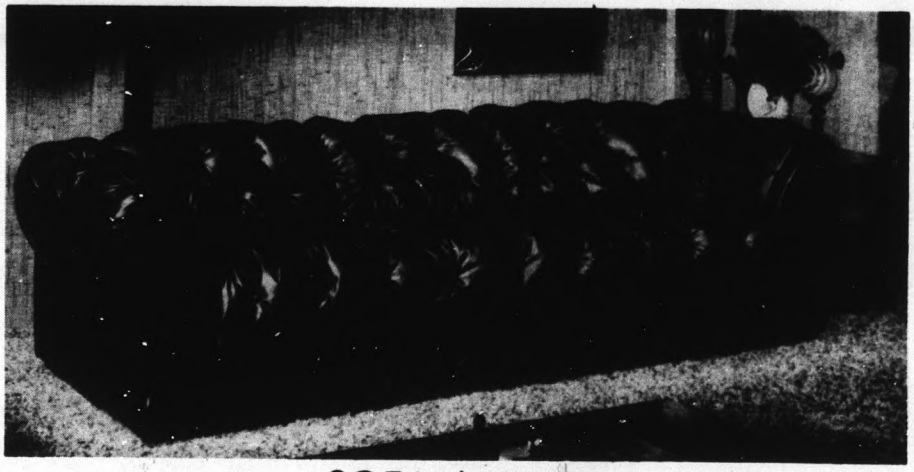
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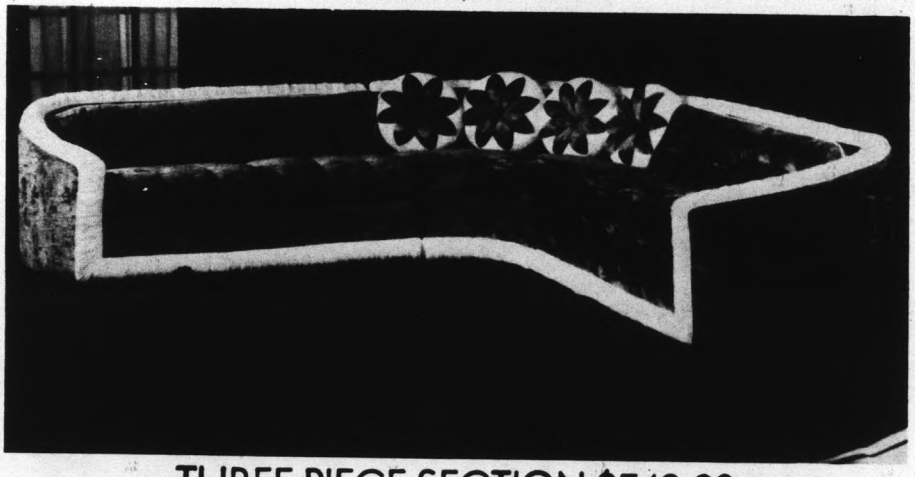
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